

## **Resolution in Support of Tobacco-Free Parks and Beaches in [insert jurisdiction]**

**WHEREAS**, in order to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the [insert jurisdiction], Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco use causes death and disease and continues to be an urgent public health challenge, as evidenced by the following:

- Tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for about 443,000 deaths each year, and tobacco use causes chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke, in addition to cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, and mouth; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke has repeatedly been identified as a health hazard, as evidenced by the following:

- The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is responsible for as many as 3,000 deaths from lung cancer and 46,000 deaths from heart disease among nonsmokers each year in the United States. Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of coronary heart disease by approximately 30 percent, and causes lower respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, in as many as 300,000 children in the United States under the age of 18 months each year, and exacerbates childhood asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to secondhand smoke anywhere has negative health impacts, and exposure to secondhand smoke does, contrary to a common misconception, occur at significant levels outdoors, as evidenced by the following:

- Levels of secondhand smoke exposure outdoors can reach levels attained indoors depending on the direction and amount of wind and number and proximity of smokers. Irritation from secondhand smoke begins at levels as low as 4 micrograms per cubic meter, and in some outdoor situations this level can be found as far away as 13 feet from the burning cigarette; and
- Smoking cigarettes near building entryways can increase air pollution levels by more than two times as compared to background levels, with maximum levels reaching the “hazardous” range on the US EPA’s Air Quality Index; and
- Studies on a cruise ship have found that even while cruising at 20 knots and with unlimited air volume, outdoor smoking areas contained carcinogens in nearly the same amounts as inside the ship’s casino where smoking was allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking and causes significant death and disease, as evidenced by the following:

- Smokeless tobacco use causes leukoplakia, a disease causing white patches to form in the user’s mouth that can become cancerous; smokeless tobacco products are known to cause lung, larynx, esophageal, and oral cancer; and the regular use of snuff doubles the user’s risk of cardiovascular disease and death; and prolonged use of snus, a form of smokeless tobacco, contributes to high blood pressure and to a higher likelihood of suffering a fatal stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, children who attend or participate in athletic and recreational events can be affected by secondhand smoke and the use of other tobacco products; and smoking and the use of other tobacco products at such events sends a deleterious health message to youth and student athletes; and

**WHEREAS**, cigarette butts are the most littered item in the United States and a dangerous nuisance, as evidenced by the following:

- Americans discard more than an estimated 175 million pounds of cigarette butts every year, frequently onto sidewalks, streets, beaches, and nature trails, and in parks, gardens and other public places, ending up in storm drains that flow into the water supply; and

- Cigarette filters, made of plastic cellulose acetate, are not biodegradable and take approximately 15 years to decompose; and

**WHEREAS**, cigarette butts pose a health threat to young children, as evidenced by the following:

- In 2009, American poison control centers received nearly 8,000 reports of children poisoned by the ingestion of cigarettes, cigarette butts, and other tobacco products; and children who ingest cigarette butts can experience vomiting, nausea, lethargy, and gagging; and

**WHEREAS**, smoking outside in natural areas, where there are trees, shrubs and grasses, poses a significant risk of fire damage to those natural areas, and cigarette-caused fires unnecessarily jeopardize firefighters and result in avoidable emergency response costs; and

**WHEREAS**, laws restricting the use of tobacco products have clear benefits to public health and medical costs, as evidenced by the following:

- Cities with smokefree laws see an appreciable reduction in hospital admittances for heart attacks in the months and years after such laws are passed; and
- Smoking bans help people reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke or quit altogether; and

**WHEREAS**, unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA’s testing also suggested that “quality control processes used to manufacture these products are inconsistent or non-existent.” and

**WHEREAS**, electronic cigarettes are known to have caused serious injury from explosion of their rechargeable lithium batteries; and

**WHEREAS**, creating smoke-free areas helps protect the health of our children and the 80 percent of adults who do not smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, a large number of citizens and visitors to the [insert jurisdiction name] find smoking and the use of tobacco products a serious health concern in both indoor and outdoor environments, particularly where a large number of people are gathered together in close proximity; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no Constitutional right to smoke or use other tobacco products;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the undersigned endorses and supports making all parks and beaches in [insert jurisdiction name] 100% tobacco-free.

\_\_\_ Individual:

Individual Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Organization:

Signature of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail signed resolutions to:

[insert address and/or email]